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PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: GRADON et al.

Serial No.: 10/785,646

Croup Art: 3764

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Date

Wifflany E. Sexton

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ASSISTANCE

APPARATUS

Filed: February 24, 2004

Atty. Docket No.: 1171/41687/139

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with Applicant's duty of candor under 37 CFR §1.56 and in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, Applicant is not aware of any material prior art but, in an abundance of caution and candor, Applicant submits the present Information Disclosure Statement and the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are included herewith.

The references cited in this Information Disclosure Statement are referenced in the Background of the Invention section of the patent application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date and before the receipt of a first Office Action on the merits and constitutes a bona fide attempt to comply with 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97, the presentation of this information shall not be construed as a representation that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 exists, or as an admission that the information cited in this statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

Should the Examiner believe a fee is required, the United States Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized and requested to charge the fee to the deposit account of the undersigned firm, Account No. 20-1495.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 20, 2004

Raikord A. Blackstone, Reg. No. 25,156

Linda L. Palomar, Reg. No. 37,903
TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI,
BLACKSTONE & MARR, LTD.

105 W. Adams Street, 36th Floor

Chicago, Illinois 60603 (312) 704-1890

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